

SIG

The weary sun hath made a golden set,
And, by the bright track of his fiery car,
Gives signal of a goodly day to-morrow. *Shakesp. R. III.*
Scarce the dawning day began to spring,
As at a signal giv'n, the streets with clamours ring. *Dryden.*

SIGNAL. *adj.* [*signal*, French.] Eminent; memorable; remarkable.

He was esteemed more by the parliament, for the signal acts of cruelty committed upon the Irish. *Clarendon.*
The Thames frozen twice in one year, so as men to walk on it, is a very signal accident. *Swift.*

SIGNALITY. *n. f.* [*from signal*.] Quality of something remarkable or memorable.

Of the ways whereby they enquired and determined its signality, the first was natural, arising from physical causes. *Brown.*
It seems a signality in providence, in erecting your society in such a juncture of dangerous humours. *Glanv. Serj. Pref.*

TO SIGNALIZE. *v. a.* [*signaler*, French.] To make eminent; to make remarkable.

Many, who have endeavoured to signalize themselves by works of this nature, plainly discover that they are not acquainted with the most common systems of arts and sciences. *Addison's Spectator.*

Some one eminent spirit, having signalized his valour and fortune in defence of his country, or by the practice of popular arts at home, becomes to have great influence on the people. *Swift.*

SIGNALLY. *adv.* [*from signal*.] Eminently; remarkably; memorably.

Persons signally and eminently obliged, yet missing of the utmost of their greedy designs in swallowing both gifts and giver too, instead of thanks for received kindnesses, have betook themselves to barbarous threatnings. *South's Sermons.*

SIGNATION. *n. f.* [*from signe*, Latin.] Sign given; act of betokening.

A horsehoe Baptista Porta hath thought too low a signation, he raised unto a lunar representation. *Brown.*

SIGNATURE. *n. f.* [*signature*, Fr. *signatura*, from *signu*, Lat.]

1. A sign or mark impressed upon any thing; a stamp; a mark.

The brain being well furnished with various traces, signatures, and images, will have a rich treasure always ready to be offered to the soul. *Watts.*

That natural and indelible signature of God, which human souls, in their first origin, are supposed to be stamped with, we have no need of in disputes against atheism. *Bentley.*

Vulgar parents cannot stamp their race
With signatures of such majestic grace. *Pope's Odyssey.*

2. A mark upon any matter, particularly upon plants, by which their nature or medicinal use is pointed out.

All bodies work by the communication of their nature, or by the impression and signatures of their motions: the diffusion of species visible, seemeth to participate more of the former, and the species audible of the latter. *Bacon's Nat. History.*

Some plants bear a very evident signature of their nature and use. *Mercer against Atheism.*

Seek out for plants, and signatures,
To quack of universal cures. *Hudibras.*

Herbs are described by marks and signatures, so far as to distinguish them from one another. *Baker on Learning.*

3. Proof; evidence.

The most despicable pieces of decayed nature are curiously wrought with eminent signatures of divine wisdom. *Glanv.*

Some rely on certain marks and signatures of their election, and others on their belonging to some particular church or sect. *Rogers's Sermons.*

4. [Among printers.] Some letter or figure to distinguish different sheets.

SIGNATURIST. *n. f.* [*from signature*.] One who holds the doctrine of signatures.

Signaturists seldom omit what the ancients delivered, drawing unto inference received distinctions. *Brown.*

SIGNET. *n. f.* [*signet*, French.] A seal commonly used for the seal-manual of a king.

I've been bold,
For that I knew it the most gen'ral way,
To them to use your signet and your name. *Shakesp. Timon.*

Here is the hand and seal of the duke: you know the character, I doubt not, and the signet. *Shakesp. Meas. for Meas.*

Give thy signet, bracelets, and staff. *Gen. xxxviii. 18.*

He delivered him his private signet. *Knolles.*

He knew my pleasure to discharge his hands:
Proof of my life my royal signet made,
Yet still he arm'd. *Dryden's Aurengzebe.*

The impression of a signet ring. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*

SIGNIFICANCE. *n. f.* [*from signify*.]

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1. Power of signifying; meaning.

Speaking is a sensible expression of the notions of the mind by discriminations of utterance of voice, used as signs, having by content several determinate significances. *Holder.*

If he declares he intends it for the honour of another, he takes away by his words the significance of his action. *Stillings.*

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2. Force; energy; power of impressing the mind.

The clearness of conception and expression, the boldness maintained to majesty, the significancy and sound of words, not strained into bombast, must escape our transient view upon the theatre. *Dryden.*

As far as this duty will admit of privacy, our Saviour hath enjoined it in terms of particular significancy and force. *Atterb.*

I have been admiring the wonderful significancy of that word perfection, and what various interpretations it hath acquired. *Swift.*

3. Importance; moment; consequence.

How fatal would such a distinction have proved in former reigns, when many a circumstance of less significancy has been construed into an overt act of high treason? *Addison.*

SIGNIFICANT. *adj.* [*signifiant*, Fr. *significans*, Latin.]

1. Expressive of something beyond the external mark.

Since you are tongue-ty'd, and so loth to speak,
In dumb significant proclaim your thoughts. *Shakesp. H. VI.*

2. Betokening; standing as a sign of something.

It was well said of Plotinus, that the stars were significant, but not efficient. *Raleigh.*

3. Expressive or representative in an eminent degree; forcible to impress the intended meaning.

Whereas it may be objected, that to add to religious duties such rites and ceremonies as are significant, is to institute new sacraments. *Holder.*

Common life is full of this kind of significant expressions, by knocking, beckoning, frowning, and pointing; and dumb persons are gageous in the use of them. *Holder on Speech.*

The Romans joined both devices, to make the emblem the more significant; as, indeed, they could not too much extol the learning and military virtues of this emperor. *Addison.*

4. Important; momentous. A low word.

SIGNIFICANTLY. *adv.* [*from significant*.] With force of expression.

Christianity is known in Scripture by no name to significantly as by the simplicity of the Gospel. *South's Sermons.*

SIGNIFICATION. *n. f.* [*signification*, French; *significatio*, Latin; from *signify*.]

1. The act of making known by signs.

A lie is properly a species of injustice, and a violation of the right of that person to whom the false speech is directed; for all speaking, or signification of one's mind, implies an act or address of one man to another. *South.*

2. Meaning expressed by a sign or word.

An adjective requirerth another word to be joined with him, to shew his signification. *Academie.*

Brute animals make divers motions to have several significations, to call, warn, cherish, and threaten. *Holder.*

SIGNIFICATIVE. *adj.* [*significatif*, Fr. from *signify*.]

1. Betokening by an external sign.

The holy symbols or signs are not barely significative, but what by divine institution they represent and testify unto our souls, is truly and certainly delivered unto us. *Brerewood.*

2. Forcible; strongly expressive.

Neither in the degrees of kindred they were destitute of significative words; for whom we call grandfather, they called caldfader; whom we call great-grandfather, they called third-fader. *Camden's Remains.*

SIGNIFY. *v. a.* [*signifier*, French; *significo*, Latin.]

1. To declare by some token or sign.

The maid from that ill omen turn'd her eyes,
Nor knew what signify'd the boding sign,
But found the pow'r displeas'd. *Dryden.*

Those parts of nature, into which the chaos was divided, they signified by dark and obscure names; as the night, tartarus, and oceanus. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

2. To mean; to express.

Life's but a walking shadow; a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more! It is a tale,
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing! *Shakesp. Macbeth.*

Stephano, signify
Within the house your mistress is at hand. *Shakesp. Tempest.*

3. To import; to weigh. This is seldom used but interrogatively, what signifies? or with much, little, or nothing.

Though he that sins frequently, and repents frequently, gives reason to believe his repentances before God signify nothing; yet that is nothing to us. *Taylor.*

What signifies the splendor of courts, considering the slavish attendances that go along with it? *L'Estrange.*

He hath one way more, which although it signify little to men of sober reason, yet unhappily hits the suspicious humour of men, that governors have a design to impose. *Tillston.*

If the first of these fail, the power of Adam, were it never to great, will signify nothing to the present societies in the world. *Locke.*

What

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What signifies the people's content in making and repealing laws, if the person who administers hath no tie. *Swift.*

4. To make known.

I'll to the king, and signify to him,
That thus I have resign'd to you my charge. *Shakesp. R. III.*

He sent and signified it by his angel unto John. *Rev. i. 1.*

The government should signify to the protestants of Ireland, that want of silver is not to be remedied. *Swift.*

TO SIGNIFY. *v. n.* To express meaning with force.

If the words be but comely and signifying, and the sense gentle, there is juice; but where that wanteth, the language is thin. *Ben. Johnson.*

SIGNIFY. *n. f.* [*signoria*, Italian.] Lordship; dominion.

If ancient sorrow be most reverent,
Give mine the benefit of signifying,
And let my griefs frown on the upper hand. *Shakesp. R. III.*

At that time
Through all the signories it was the first,
And Prospero the prime duke. *Shakesp. Tempest.*

The carls, their titles and their signories
They must restore again. *Daniel's Civil War.*

My brave progenitors, by valour, zeal,
Gain'd those high honours, princely signories,
And proud prerogatives. *West.*

SIGNPOST. *n. f.* [*sign and post*.] That upon which a sign hangs.

He should share with them in the preserving
A shed or signpost. *Ben. Johnson's Catiline.*

This noble invention of our author's hath been copied by so many signpost dawblers, that now 'tis grown fullsome, rather by their want of skill than by the commonness. *Dryden.*

SIGNE. *adv.* The old word for *sure*, or *surely*. *Spenfer.*

SIGNESS. *n. f.* [*from sign*.] Sureness; safety.

SILENCE. *n. f.* [*silence*, French; *silentium*, Latin.]

1. The state of holding peace.

Unto me men gave ear, and waited and kept silence at my counsel. *Job xxix. 21.*

I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. *1 Tim. ii. 12.*

First to himself he inward silence broke. *Milton.*

2. Habitual taciturnity; not loquacity.

I think the best grace of wit will shortly turn into silence,
And discourse grow commendable in none but parrots. *Shak.*

3. Secrecy.

4. Stiness; not noise.

Here all their rage, and ev'n their murmurs cease,
And sacred silence reigns, and universal peace. *Pope.*

5. Not mention.

Thus fame shall be achiev'd,
And what most merits fame in silence hid. *Milton.*

SILENCE. *interj.* An authoritative restraint of speech.

Sir, have pity; I'll be his surety.—
—Silence: one word more

Shall make me chide thee, if not hate thee. *Shakesp. Lear.*

TO SILENCE. *v. a.* [*from the noun*.] To still; to oblige to hold peace.

We must suggest the people, that to's pow'r
He would have made them mules, silenc'd their pleaders, and
Disproportioned their freedoms. *Shakesp. Lear.*

The ambassador is silenc'd. *Shakesp. Hen. VIII.*

Silence that dreadful bell; it frights the life
From her propriety. *Shakesp. Othello.*

This passed as an oracle, and silenced those that moved the question. *Bacon's Hen. VII.*

Thus could not the mouths of worthy martyrs be silenced,
who being exposed unto wolves, gave loud expressions of their faith, and were heard as high as heaven. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*

This would silence all further opposition. *Clarendon.*

Since in dark sorrow I my days did spend,
I could not silence my complaints. *Denham.*

These dying lovers, and their floating sons,
Suspend the fight and silence all our guns. *Waller.*

Had they duly considered the extent of infinite knowledge and power, these would have silenced their scruples, and they had adored the amazing mystery. *Rogers's Sermons.*

If it please him altogether to silence me, so that I shall not only speak with difficulty, but wholly be disabled to open my mouth, to any articulate utterance; yet I hope he will give me grace, even in my thoughts, to praise him. *Wake.*

The thunder spoke, nor durst the queen reply;
A reverend horror silenc'd all the sky. *Pope's Iliad.*

SILENT. *adj.* [*silent*, Latin.]

1. Not speaking; mute.

O my God, I cry in the day time, and in the night season I am not silent. *Psalms xxii. 2.*

Silent, and in face
Confounded long they sat as stricken mute. *Milton.*

Be not silent to me: left if thou be silent, I become like those that go down into the pit. *Psalms xxviii. 1.*

2. Not talkative; not loquacious.

Ulysses, adds he, was the most eloquent and most silent of men; he knew that a word spoken never wrought so much good as a word conceal'd. *Notes on the Odyssey.*

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3. Still; having no noise.

Deep night, dark night, the silent of the night,
The time of night when Troy was set on fire,
The time when screech-owls cry, and ban-dogs howl. *Shak.*

Now is the pleasant time,
The cool, the silent, save where silence yields
To the night-warbling bird. *Milton.*

4. Wanting efficacy. I think an Hebraism.

Second and instrumental causes, together with nature itself, without that operative faculty which God gave them, would become silent, virtuelless and dead. *Raleigh's History.*

The sun to me is dark,
And silent as the moon,
When she deserts the night,
Hid in her vacant interlunar cave. *Milton.*

5. Not mentioning.

This new created world, wherof in hell
Fame is not silent. *Milton.*

SILENTLY. *adv.* [*from silent*.]

1. Without speech.

When with one three nations join to fight,
They silently confess that one more brave. *Dryden.*

For me they beg, each silently
Demands thy grace, and seems to watch thy eye. *Dryden.*

2. Without noise.

You to a certain victory are led;
Your men all arm'd stand silently within. *Dryden.*

3. Without mention.

The difficulties remain still, till he can show who is meant by right heir, in all those cases where the present possessor hath no son: this he silently passes over. *Locke.*

SILICIOUS. *adj.* [*from silicium*.] It should be therefore written *silicious*. Made of hair.

The silicious and hairy vests of the strictest orders of friars, derive their institution from St. John and Elias. *Brown.*

SILICULOSE. *adj.* [*silicula*, Latin.] Husky; full of husks. *Dict.*

SILICINOSE. *adj.* [*siliginosus*, Latin.] Made of fine wheat. *Dict.*

SILICULOSA. *n. f.* [*Latin*.]

1. [With gold finers.] A carat of which six make a scruple.

2. [*Silique*, French, with botanists.] The seed-vessel, husk, cod, or shell of such plants as are of the pulse kind. *Dict.*

SILICOSE. *adj.* [*from silique*, Latin.] Having a pod, or silico. } capsule.

All the tetrapetalous silico plants are alkalescent. *Arbuth.*

SILK. *n. f.* [*seolc*, Saxon.]

1. The thread of the worm that turns afterwards to a butterfly.

The worms were hallow'd that did breed the silk;
And it was dy'd in mummy, which the skilful
Conserv'd of maiden's hearts. *Shakesp. Othello.*

2. The stuff made of the worms thread.

Let not the creaking of shoes, or rustling of silks betray
thy poor heart to woman. *Shakesp. Lear.*

He caus'd the shore to be covered with Persian silk for
him to tread upon. *Knolles.*

Without the worm, in Persian silks we shine. *Waller.*

SILKEN. *adj.* [*from silk*.]

1. Made of silk.

Men counsel and give comfort to that grief
Which they themselves not feel; but tasting it,
Their counsel turns to passion, which before
Would give preceptual medicine to rage;
Fetter strong madness in a silken thread;
Charm ach with air, and agony with words. *Shakesp. Lear.*

Now, will we revel it
With silken coats, and caps, and golden rings. *Shakesp. Lear.*

She weeps,
And words address'd seem tears diffus'd,
Wetting the borders of her silken veil. *Milton.*

2. Soft; tender.

Full many a lady fair, in court full oft
Beholding them, him secretly envide,
And whilst that two such fans, so silken soft,
And golden fair, her love would her provide. *Spenfer.*

All the youth of England are on fire,
And silken dalliance in the wardrobe lies. *Shakesp. Hen. V.*

For then the hills with pleasing shades are crown'd,
And sleeps are sweeter on the silken ground. *Dryden.*

Dress up virtue in all the beauties of oratory, and you will find the wild passions of men too violent to be restrained by such mild and silken language. *Watts's Improv. of the Mind.*

3. Dressed in silk.

Shall a beardless boy,
A cocker'd, silken wanton, brave our fields,
And feth his spirit in a warlike foil,
Mocking the air with colours idly spread,
And find no check? *Shakesp. King John.*

SILKMERCE. *n. f.* [*silk and mercer*.] A dealer in silk.

SILKWEAVER. *n. f.* [*silk and weaver*.] One whose trade is to weave silken stuffs.

True English hate your monies paltry arts;
For you are all silk-weavers in your hearts. *Dryden.*

The Chinese are ingenious silk-weavers. *Watts.*